

The Central Midwives' Board.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives' Board to consider the charges alleged against three registered midwives was held at the Offices, 6, Suffolk Street, W., on Thursday, November 30th. There were present: Dr. Champneys in the chair, Miss Paget, Miss Wilson, Mr. Parker Young, Dr. Dakin and Mr. Fordham.

CASE I.

The first case was that of Mary Ann Coit, who was charged with negligence in attending a patient by neglecting to wash the patient for nineteen hours after the birth of the child, that she neglected to take with her the requisite appliances, particularly a clinical thermometer, that she failed to notify to the local supervising authority the fact of medical assistance having been sent for and the reason of the necessity thereof. The accused did not appear. The Board heard two witnesses, one being Dr. Howlett, a general practitioner at Kingston-on-Thames, who subsequently attended the patient and made a *post-mortem* examination after her death. Dr. Howlett stated that the patient exhibited well-marked signs of puerperal septicæmia. She had a septic rash and thrombi.

It was decided to remove Mrs. Coit's name from the Roll.

The Chairman said the case was of one of those women for whose presence on the Roll the Board was in no way answerable. They were placed on because under the Act the Board had no option. But once on the Roll these midwives must conform to the rules of the Board. It was no excuse to say they were not acquainted with them.

CASE II.

The second case investigated was that of Annie Bromhead, charged with disobeying the rules by leaving the patient during the second stage of labour, and by not declining to attend alone, and advising that a medical practitioner should be sent for in a case of arm presentation. Mrs. Bromhead appeared, and Dr. Boobyer, Medical Officer of Health for the City of Nottingham, attended to give evidence. The Board considered the charges were not proved, but the Chairman warned her that it was only necessary for her to attend *one* case without conforming to the rules of the Board as to the appliances she carried, and she would be struck off the Roll at once.

CASE III.

The next case considered was that of Elizabeth Fitch, charged with neglecting to visit a patient for four days, that she did not take to the confinement the appliances required by the Board, and that she does not keep a register of cases in the proper form.

Dr. Hill, of Sheffield, appeared for Mrs. Fitch, and most ably defended her. Mrs. Fitch is indeed to be congratulated on having enlisted, in the interests of abstract justice, so powerful an advocate. The Board censured Mrs. Fitch in regard to not carrying the requisite appliances or keeping a register, but did not remove her name from the Roll. They suggested that Dr. Hill should use his kindly offices to persuade her only to attend cases where a doctor was in attendance.

Nursing Echoes.

*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



At the annual meeting of the constituents of the Hospital Sunday Fund, to be held on December 18, awards will be made for the first time to District Nursing Societies. We hope the Queen's Jubilee Institute, the North London Nursing Association, and the Bible Womens' Association of Trained Nurses may each come in for substantial recognition. Their work for the sick poor in the Metropolis is of the utmost value.

The new year will see the retirement from positions which they have for many years filled honourably and well, of three strenuous workers in the nursing world. Miss Brew, the Matron of the London Homœopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C., Sister Olive, and Sister Marian.

Miss Brew has held this position for thirty years, and found Sister Olive already in the hospital when appointed. Sister Marian entered it for training shortly afterwards, and has remained there ever since. It would have been a pleasure to us to have published a portrait of Miss Brew, but she assures us that her "face has never yet been printed," and she cannot now depart from this rule. Her work at the Homœopathic Hospital will leave a lasting impress upon it, for it has been solid and good, and good work is bound to bear fruit.

In all her efforts for the efficient training of probationers and for the care of the sick, Miss Brew has had loyal supporters and ready helpers in Sister Olive, Sister Marian, and other Sisters whom she has gathered round her. The traditions of devotion to duty and of contentment only with work done as perfectly as possible, which are characteristic of the present régime, are conditions which we hope may long continue at the Homœopathic Hospital.

At the recent meeting of the Governors of Middlesex Hospital, they recommended that the late Lady Superintendent, Miss Thorold, should be given a pension of £200 a year in recognition of her thirty-five years' service to the hospital.

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